

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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SUBJECT: APRIL 14 PRESS COVERAGE OF CONSEQUENCES

ISRAEL'S BEIRUT RAID

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF APRIL 14 PRESS ON SUBJECT
BEIRUT RAID AND CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY:

(A) AHARAM CONTINUES TO CONCENTRATE ON INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO UNSC MEETINGS, TRAVEL OF FONMIN ZAYYAT TO NEW YORK, AND WORLD REACTION TO EVENT. AHARAM DOES NOT REPEAT CHARGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA REGARDING US COMPLICITY, BUT ALI AL- GAMMAL WRITES EDITORIAL SHARPLY CRITICAL OF US FOR PROCLAMATIONS THAT IT WILL DEFEND ISRAEL AT SECURITY COUNCIL. GAMMAL PARTICULARLY PRAISES CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR FOR LATTER'S COMMENT ON BEIRUT RAID AND CALLS FOR ARABS TO WRITE LETTERS OF THANKS TO MONITOR'S EDITORS.

(B) AKHBAR CONTINUES TO CUDGEL US BY PRINTING IN FULL YASSER ARAFAT'S ALLEGATIONS THAT US AMBASSADOR MEYER
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PLANNED BEIRUT RAID. PAPER ALSO FRONT- PAGES STORY ABOUT US FEAR OF FEDAYEEN REPRISALS AGAINST AMCITS, AND EDITORIALS AND CARTOONS SCORE US SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IN SECURITY COUNCIL. MOST LIBELIOUS OF ALL IS ARTICLE IN AKHBAR CONCERNING CIA COLLUSION WITH ISRAEL. ARTICLE STATES THAT 80 PERCENT OF ALL US OFFICIALS ABROAD ARE SPIES , THAT CIA ACTIVITIES ARE CONCENTRATED IN BEIRUT, THAT OIL COMPANIES SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR SPY NETWORKS WHICH WORK FOR THEM AND FOR ISRAEL. ARTICLE RAISES OLD CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY WITH ISRAEL POLITICALLY, AND BROADENS ITS SCOPE TO COVER US SPYING ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS IN GENERAL. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT BY EBAN, REPORTEDLY MADE IN WASHINGTON, THAT " THERE IS AGREEMENT ON GOALS BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL.

(C) GUMHURIYYA PRINTS CHARGES BY ARAFAT OF US COMPLICITY IN BEIRUT ATTACK, BUT THIS IS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE. GUMHURIYYA ALSO PRINTS SECRETARY ROGERS' DENIAL OF ANY US COMPLICITY. GUMHURIYYA' S EDITORIAL ATTACKS US FOR PROBABLE USE OF VETO IN SC.

2. COMMENT: TO PLACE APRCY 14 PRESS COVERAGE IN PERSPECTIVE, AHAM CONTINUES RELATIVELY MODERATE LINE AND DOES NOT GIVE ANY SPACE WHATSOEVER TO ARAFAT' S ALLEGATIONS. GUMHURIYYA' S INFLAMMATORY CHARGES WANES SLIGHTLY, BUT AKHBAR' S ANTI- US COVERAGE CONTINUES AT HIGH PITCH. IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE US IF ARTICLE ON CIA ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS WAS INSPIRED BY SOVIETS.
GREENE

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